

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

The paragraph beginning at page 7, line 31 has been amended as follows:

For example, in one alternative embodiment shown in FIGS. 12-13, a body chassis 304 includes a liquid permeable top sheet 306 secured to an extensible outer cover 308. The outer cover can also be referred to as backsheet, which can be liquid permeable or impermeable, depending on whether an additional backsheet, or barrier sheet, is provided. Alternatively, as shown in FIG. 14, the body chassis includes only one or more top sheets, without the extensible outer cover. Each of the top sheet and outer cover has ear portions 310 extending laterally outward at each end of the absorbent garment, and concave shaped peripheral side edges 312 extending between the ear portions. Preferably, elastic members are secured along the peripheral side edges to form a gasket along the leg or crotch region of the user. Fastening tabs 314 are attached to the ear portions on one end of the garment. The fastening tabs can comprise hooks and/or loops, such as a VelcroVELCRO® fastening system, or can have adhesive or other bonding agents applied to one surface thereof. Alternatively, the fastening tabs can include buttons, snaps, ties or other known fastening means or devices. When the garment is secured to the body of the user, the fastening tabs 314 secured to the ear portions on one end of the garment engage or are otherwise connected to the ear portions on the opposite end of the garment. When secured in this way, openings are formed on each side of the garment along the concave peripheral edge and are shaped to receive the legs of the user.

The paragraph beginning at page 9, line 10 has been amended as follows:

The absorbent material 44 can be any material that tends to swell or expand as it absorbs exudates, including various liquids and/or fluids excreted or exuded by the user. For example, the absorbent material can be made of airformed, airlaid and/or

wetlaid composites of fibers and high absorbency materials, referred to as superabsorbents. Superabsorbents typically are made of polyacrylic acids, such as FAVOR 880 available from Stockhausen, Inc. of Greensboro, North Carolina. The fibers can be fluff pulp materials, such as ALLIANCE~~Alliance~~ CR-1654, or any combination of crosslinked pulps, hardwood, softwood, and synthetic fibers. Airlaid and wetlaid structures typically include binding agents, which are used to stabilize the structure. In addition, various foams, absorbent films, and superabsorbent fabrics can be used as an absorbent material. Various acceptable absorbent materials are disclosed in U.S. Patents 5,147,343 for Absorbent Products Containing Hydrogels With Ability To Swell Against Pressure, 5,601,542 for Absorbent Composite, and 5,651,862 for Wet Formed Absorbent Composite, all of which are hereby incorporated herein by reference. Furthermore, the properties of high-absorbency particles can range from about 0 to about 100%, and the proportion of fibrous material from about 0 to about 100%. Additionally, high absorbency fibers can be used such as OASIS~~Oasis~~ type 121 and type 122 superabsorbent fibers available from Technical Absorbent Ltd., Grimsby, Lincolnshire, United Kingdom.

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